

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:	Jerry Bixby	Richard Hughes
	Penny Marinos	Cindy Stewart
	Kent Voigt	Brian Wehrung

Absent:	Alex Bennett
	Michael Farrug

Additions to Agenda

Under Old Business, add items as follows:

- B. WOW's Complaint Against Comcast re: Discrimination/Pricing
- C. Quarterly Reports (Comcast / WOW)

Approval of Minutes

Corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting of April 17, 2002 are as follows:

1st page, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence – "has dictates" to read "has dictated"

2nd page, 4th paragraph – "USP" to read USB

Under Correspondence: 2nd line "are being priced lower to customers threatening to move to WOW service, but these prices are not being offered to all customers."

Moved by Voigt, seconded by Hughes, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 17, 2002, as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

- A. WideOpenWest – Collection of Franchise Fees Upon Non-Cable Service Revenue:

No longer authorized to collect cable fees for Internet customers, according to recent FCC ruling.

B. WOW - Internet Packaging/Pricing

Both Marinos and Voigt have WOW Internet. They received excellent installation and customer service.

C. Franchise Fee Collection

Franchise fee collections are indeed illegal. FCC found cable service to be an information service; revenue from cable modem service would not be included in the calculation of gross revenues from which the franchise fee ceiling is determined.

D. Comcast – Special Offers to Customers

Comcast is offering specials to its customers. This was in lieu of paying \$66,000 in default money to customers with complaints.

E. CMN Ribbon Cut for New Public Access Studio on September 5. Official invites will be mailed.

Old Business

A. Comcast Customer Service

Upgrades from analog to digital service offers confused many people. Vice President Don Stephan reported on this issue at the July ICCA meeting. City of Troy and ICCA still continue to get many complaints from Comcast customers and almost none from WOW customers -- cable burys, service, billing, Internet.

Comcast looked into Channel 3 and 9 problems.

B. WOW's Complaint Against Comcast re: Discrimination/Pricing

Do special mailing to Board when receive info from attorney.

Don't want to see Comcast drive WOW out of business due to anti-discriminatory practice. Two members switched to WOW and did not get any lower price offers from Comcast.

Stewart will check Lori Bluhm and Tim Currier regarding action that can be taken by the City.

Note: April 17, 2002 minutes - Bought the system to be competitive. But there are rules for competition. How can this be resolved? Hopefully municipal authorities will address this. WOW made it public. Want to keep competitive market viable. Less than 5% of markets have competition. WOW does not have a problem if they

offer rates to everyone but this is against franchise agreements. FCC washed their hands of this years ago and said competition should settle it.

Moved by Voigt, seconded by Farrung, that the Board take action to direct the City Attorney to check the City's cable franchise agreement relating to pricing and determine if Comcast's current practices offered on nonstandard rates are in violation of the franchise agreement and, if so, what action can be taken by the City.

C. Quarterly Reports

Both companies will submit reports to Committee by next month. The companies wanted clarification relating to format.

New Business

A. ICCA Meeting Notes

B. Comcast Testing

The report was included. No problems encountered by Cable Management Association.

Voigt suggested that the northeast section of Troy be rechecked (Square Lake, John R, Dequindre). Amplifiers need to be switched out. There have been intermittent problems. A technician reported that the system is old and eventually it would be changed out.

Related News Articles

a. Cable Modem Service – A Severed Connection

“As a result of the FCC's declaratory ruling, cable companies, including the six largest, have decided to stop paying franchise fees on modem services – a move that many cities and counties claim violates terms of their franchise contracts. If non-payment continues, local governments stand to lose an estimated \$300 million in franchise fees from cable modem services this year. Tim Currier will have a future report on this issue.

Comment: CATV, ICCA and City of Troy will probably have no influence on FCC ruling.

b. Other articles:

- (1) Comcast Deal: Freebies for Service Gripes
- (2) Cable Provider Attempts to Improve Image, But Critics Say Offers Don't Go Far Enough

Staff Report

Cindy Stewart & Sam Lamerato drove to Sunbury, Ohio and picked up the new cable truck. Initial remote shoot with the new truck was July 17 – Concert Series. No problems.

Community Affairs won six awards at the Community Media network Access-ability Awards on May 30th for

Educational Content - Celebrate Freedom: MLK Day 2002

Host/Commentator - Brandon Tierney/Steve Vinson, WTRY Sports

News/Public Affairs - City of Troy Goals and Objectives

PSA - Emergency Operations Plan

Series Overview - WTRY Sports

Sports - Troy vs. West Bloomfield, High School Basketball

We have been putting together a number of Public Service Announcements – Troy Nature Center, Troy Daze Festival, Children's Festival of the Arts at the Library.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2002. Truck demo/tour at 7:00 p.m.

Moved by Marinos, seconded by Bixby, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.